

The Nineth U. S. Congress - off and running today.

In its "getaway week;" beginning an expected five hectic days before adjournment - by handing President Johnson his greatest legislative victory of the entire session. The House giving final Congressional approval - to a new Four-Billion Dollar, Two-year extension of the war on poverty.

This the largest authorization ever - for the three-year-old poverty program. Also the first Great Society program this year - to get more money than last year. And coming from a House - often hostile to the President, where four weeks ago - the entire poverty program was in grave doubt.

The measure now enroute to the White House - for the President's signature.

VIETNAM -2

by trying to get Hanoi to the peace table, instead of trying to foment trouble - over alleged U.S. military threats against Cambodia and Laos. The statement further emphasizing; "we seek no wider war!" The Russians presumably want us to be involved in an interminable war!

PRESIDENT

The nation's number one newlyweds - Major and Mrs. Chuck Robb - happily secluded today in the Virgin Islands. Meanwhile, here at home, publication of an interview - taped on the eve of the Robb's White House Wedding.

In it - the President saying he has been barely able to control his temper; when provoked by false or damaging press accounts - about either of daughters. "I haven't written any letters yet" - like Truman - said LBJ - "But I have bristled and choked myself."

How does he feel - as Commander in Chief - about the fact that his new son-in-law will soon be going to war? Said the President: "it is pretty hard to appreciate enough - a man who is willing to give his ~~life~~ for your liberty?"

As for the differences between his two daughters - the President saying: "I see in Lynda her Mother - everytime she writes a check. I see in Luci her grandmother - everytime she can't find her check book - and doesn't know that the balance is." Does that make Luci the all-~~A~~merican girl?

KOYNA NAGAR

From India comes word today - of a major earthquake. And not in the Himalayas where they often have them. This one ranging from Bombay in the North - almost the entire length of the Western Coast of that vast sub-continent of Hindustan.

Hardest hit - the town of Koyna Nagar; about two hundred miles Southeast of Bombay - near the epicenter of the quake. First reports saying the town was almost razed - with about one hundred dead - a thousand injured.

Trouble of a different kind in Central India, in ~~Uttar~~ Uttar Pradesh State, where a mob of demonstrators today burned shops and attacked police - in protest against a government ~~bill~~ bill to retain English as an official language in India. In this wild day of violence some three-hundred were injured.

CAIRO

Arab Foreign Ministers meeting in Cairo - came up today with plans for a Fifth Arab summit conference; to be held January Seventeenth - in Rabat, Morocco. Purpose: To plan for united action - in the next stage of their confrontation with Israel.

At the same time - Premier Zayyen of Syria arriving today in Paris. The Militant Arab leader meeting with French Premier Georges Pompidou for a five-day round of talks, even as Israel recalled its Ambassador from Paris - for consultations on De Gaulle's recent courting of the Arab bloc. While on Cyprus - special U.N. representative Gunnar Jarring of Sweden getting ready to begin his role as Middle East mediator, planning to leave tomorrow for Beirut - to begin "initial contacts" with Arab countries and Israel.

CRIME

*From the Texas White House - a renewed plea today
for speedy approval of that safe street and crime control act
- currently pending in Congress. The President asserting that
"mounting evidence of its need - can be ignored only ~~at~~^{at} our
peril." This following release of Justice Department figures -
showing a sixteen per cent increase in crime during the first
nine months of this year.*

LONDON

From London - the story today of a sad sack rugby football team - made up of U.S. Navy men stationed in Britain. The Americans closing out a disastrous season - in a final burst of scoring - though not their own. Losing to the London Fire Brigade - by a tally of thirty-five to nothing.

When the final massacre was finally ended - the Navy's Captain John Rathburn leading his team off the field - bloody but unbowed. "True - we lost eleven^{our} twelve games - but we won the big one" - said he - "we beat the U.S. Marine Corps.

On the other hand when a Dartmouth rugby team invaded Britain they won all or almost all their games, Warren. Maybe these Navy lads never got away from their sea legs!

TOULOUSE

At Toulouse, France - a long awaited moment today, with the French and British unveiling for the first time - the Concorde - world's first supersonic airliner.

The Concorde - nearly two-hundred-feet long.

Designed to carry up to one-hundred-forty passengers on non-stop flights between Europe and New York; at a speed of Mach Two - about Fifteen-Hundred miles an hour. Literally - faster than a speeding bullet.

The plane expected to make its maiden flight - late in February; which means it can be expected in regular service probably as early as Nineteen-Seventy-One.